out crushing, whilst the greatest weight that could be brought upon each square foot of foundation was only two-and-a-half tons: this was supposing the building to be crowded with visiters, and the roof covered with a depth of two feet of snow. The columns had also been submitted to similar experiments: their thickness varied from half-an-inch to one inch and an eighth, according to the duty they had to perform, and the position they occupied in the building. It had been calculated, that the greatest weight which could possibly be brought upon the strongest column was sixty tons, whilst its breaking weight exceeded 300 tons.

On the 28th the discussion was renewed, and was continued throughout the meeting.

Arguments, based on calculation, were adduced to shew, that though the Building was amply sufficient for resisting any vertical pressure to which it might be subjected, it was not so well calculated to resist the horizontal force exerted by the wind, which might be taken as sometimes equalling 25lbs. per square foot. It was said that the Building in Hyde Park was the most extensive example in existence of the "pure rectangular construction," but as it did not possess the strong gable end walls of the Lancashire Cotton Mills, which were also rectangular structures, composed of columns and girders,—the stability of the glass structure must depend entirely on the simple rectangular form, which could only be maintained by the perfect attachment of the girders to the columns. It was contended that the angles by which this was effected were wanting in strength, and the columns not being attached to, or rooted into the ground, might be supposed to admit of lateral motion. The addition of further strong diagonal bracing was therefore recommended, as being necessary to insure that amount of stability requisite in a building intended for the circulation of such multitudes of persons as would attend the Exhibition.

## SOCIETY OF MASTER CARPENTERS.

THE METROPOLITAN BUILDINGS BILL.

The usual meeting of the members of the Master Carpenters' Society took place at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, the 29th ult., attended by Mr. Nesham, president, Messrs. Higgs, George Bird, Burstall, Norris, Outhwaite, Lever, and others. After the preliminary business was concluded, the President informed the Society that, by direction of the members at the previous meeting, he had written to Lord Seymour, and received a reply, saying that his lordship intended to propose an alteration of the Metropolis Buildings Bill in the ensuing session of Parliament. Some of the members expressed their anxiety for a speedy alteration of the present Bill, that some relief may be obtained in the altered size of the rates for small buildings which is contemplated in the new Bill; but the majority were more anxious about the result of the inquiry which they were informed by THE BUILDER was taking place as to the defects in the constitution of the present Court of Registrar and Referees, and they hoped that the strongly expressed objections of the Society and the building interest to the position of the registrar and referees as proposed in the Bill of last session would receive further consideration.

## REPEAL OF THE BRICK DUTY AND PREVIOUS CONTRACTS.

I should feel obliged if you will answer me the following question:—A contract having been made for the erection of a *building* prior to the repeal of the brick duty, and before the building was completed, the duty was taken off: would the person with whom the contract was made (the employer) be entitled to receive the duty which the contractor had been repaid, or any and what portion thereof? A. W.

*** The Act will be found in full in our last volume (VIII.) p. 257, but for the information of more correspondents than one, we reprint the clause referring to the point in question:—"And whereas various contracts have been made before the passing of this Act for the sale and purchase or requiring the use of bricks, and such contracts have been made on the assumption that the duties of excise on bricks payable by law at the time of making such contracts would continue: be it enacted, that the maker or seller of or person using any bricks by or under such contract shall, and he is hereby required, from and after the 26th day of March, 1850, to make an abatement from such contract, equivalent to the duty from which he will be relieved under or by virtue of this Act, in respect of all such bricks which he shall send out and deliver or use under or in pursuance of any such contract as aforesaid after the 27th day of March, 1850 (that is to say), for and in respect of all such bricks, if any, which at the period last aforesaid were in the field, yard, or premises where the same were made and charged with duty, a moiety of the said duty charged thereon, and for and in respect of all such bricks which shall be made at any time after the 27th day of March, a sum equal to the duty of excise which at the time of making such contract was payable on bricks of the like description."

## BELFAST EXHIBITION OF MODERN WORKS OF ART.

The following is a list of the pictures which have been sold, up to this time, at this Exhibition, the opening of which we mentioned a short time ago. "Rienzi in the Forum," Elmore, A.R.A., 150*l.*; "A Brook in Wales," H. J. Boddington, 15*l.* 15*s.*; "A Study," J. Sant, 36*l.* 15*s.*; "Waiting for the Ferry," C. Branwhite, 31*l.* 10*s.*; "Snowdon from the Vale of Dinas, near Bedgelert," F. H. Henshaw, 31*l.* 10*s.*; "View of Brathay Bridge, Ambleside," W. J. Blacklock, 24*l.*; "Stormy Weather," H. Hewitt, 10*l.* 10*s.*; "The Entomologist," W. S. Watson, 20*l.*; "A mountain Pass at Abar, near Bangor," A. Vicars, 5*l.* 5*s.*; "Compton Wynealis, the ancient Seat of the Marquis of Northampton, Warwickshire," F. H. Henshaw, 8*l.* 8*s.*; "Scene in the Cloisters of St. Maclou," R. Brandard, 15*l.* 15*s.*; "The Sister's Grave," J. Sant, 52*l.* 10*s.*; "Sunset, near Lanwest," Alfred Vickers, 3*l.* 3*s.*; "St. Peter's," the late J. Atkins, 5*l.* 5*s.*

## BATH CITY WATERWORKS.

CONTRACTORS' ACCOUNTS.

The last number of THE BUILDER contains a statement under this head, to which, as it is calculated to injure me in the opinion of the public, I feel called upon to offer a reply. There are two modes by which false impressions may be given—*suggestio falsa* and *suppressio veri*. The statement in question, of the *ex parte* character of which I have a right to complain, belongs to the latter, containing matters which are not untrue in themselves, but concealing others calculated to give a very different aspect to the business. It states that the award made was 1,132*l.* being a deduction from my claim of 1,833*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*, but wholly conceals, that the corporation, under the direction of its professional advisers, offered me only 22*l.*, and that the award was upwards of 1,100*l.* in excess of their tender. Does this not show the case was one in which it was difficult to arrive at a right conclusion? The truth is, in the progress of the works alterations in the drawings and specifications took place to such an extent that the completion occupied eighteen instead of six months, as agreed to under the contract. Foreseeing that disputes might arise respecting the value and measurements of works which would be concealed under ground, and that I should have great difficulty (if, indeed, it would be possible) afterwards to prove such; I repeatedly urged the architects to meet me and settle, from time to time, during their progress, the value of the alterations: this in all cases they failed to do, and hence the difficulty and injustice which have resulted to me. After receiving a certificate from the architects of the completion of the works, and finding no disposition on their parts to enter into my accounts, I furnished the corporation with a detailed statement of all works done in excess as well as in diminution of the contract, and I afterwards showed, upon oath, that my total claim was 387*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* less than the net costs of the works, such loss to me being caused, not by the lowness of my contract (which was founded on good prices, as was admitted), but from the constant alterations made and the indecisive mode in which the works were carried out.

About ten months after my claim was sent in, I received the offer of *twenty-two pounds* as the balance due to me: a reference became inevitable, although I knew, when I proposed it, that, from the length of time that had elapsed, from the nature of the work done, and from other difficulties in my way, I should not be able to prove all the items (in number nearly 300), and that injustice to some extent must be done me. I have now been for ten years engaged in the prosecution of large works, and this is the first time I have ever had with any architect or engineer the semblance of a disputed account. I must, of course, submit to the pecuniary loss I have, as I conceive most unfairly, been subjected to by the Bath Corporation, but I cannot afford to have my reputation damaged. I trust, therefore, you will give insertion to this explanation.

WM. BAKER.

## THE MARBLE ARCH AT CUMBERLAND GATE.

I AM happy to find my suggestion, made some months ago in the highest quarter, has resulted in placing the Arch at the Northern Entrance to Hyde Park, and I think it ought to receive, on completion, the appellation of "The Royal Victoria Arch." It only remains now to surmount it with an equestrian statue of Her Majesty, which would be a national and suitable memorial of our beloved Sovereign, and I hope, ere long, to see this carried into effect.

I hope, Mr. Editor, you will again call public attention to the unfinished state of the Wellington Statue, which requires a balustrade round the top of the pedestal, and which, with a staircase added, would give the great influx of strangers we expect this year an opportunity of inspecting the gigantic work of art, which they are unable now to do from its great altitude: a moderate payment to ascend would prove a source to supply funds in aid of the great Exhibition.

Hoping we shall go on improving until our public edifices show something like good taste,

I am, &c.,

Hyde-park Place. JOHN LAURIE.

*** We cannot participate in the satisfaction felt by our correspondent as to the resting-place of the Marble Arch. The site chosen is not a good one. It is a very bad one, as it seems to us. But resistance is useless: the public are to have no voice in such matters.

With respect to the *gates* given by Mr. Hope, we are informed that these, together with two new pairs of gates, will form side entrances; so that there will be *five carriage approaches*, forming an extended line, the Marble Arch being in the centre. An amusing arrangement truly!

## THE PAVILION AT BRIGHTON.

THE town of Brighton, as our readers know, purchased the Pavilion from the Government for 53,000*l.* The contract was finally signed on the 9th of September, 1849. The town has, since then, put the building into order to fit it for public entertainments, and on Tuesday, the 21st ult., it was opened with a ball.

The original Marine Pavilion, as it was then called, was commenced about the year 1784, under the superintendence of the late Mr. Holland, architect. It consisted of a circular edifice, standing between two adjoining buildings; that to the south having been the house first hired for the occasional residence of the Prince of Wales, and that to the north a new erection, as well as the centre, which was surrounded by an Ionic colonnade and entablature, supporting statues, and crowned by a dome. After that period the Pavilion progressively underwent an entire change: the former structure gave way to the buildings

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